

FREDERICK COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING MINUTES
DEPARTMENT OF AGING
July 8, 2013

COA MEMBERS	DOA STAFF	EXCUSED	UNEXCUSED	GUESTS
Hermine Bernstein	Sue Ramsburg	David Gray, Comm		Belinda Teague-Levy
Rae Ann Butler	Pat Rosensteel	Ernell Graham		
Carol Krimm, Alderman	Carolyn True	Millard Haines		
Louise Lynch		Debra Savageau		
Bill Moseley		Dan Yeeles		
Irene Packer-Halsey				
Mary Rice				
Virginia Skelley				
Steve Wilhide				

- I. **Call to Order** – RaeAnn Butler called the meeting to order at 1:00pm.
- II. **Welcome & Introductions** – RaeAnn welcomed all attendees. Guests who would like to speak at the end of the meeting were encouraged to sign in so that names can be recorded.
- III. **Action on the Agenda** – There were no changes to the agenda.
- IV. **Approval of Minutes** – The minutes of the June 10, 2013 meeting were approved. All were in favor.
- V. **Commissioner's Report** – Commissioner Gray was not present at today's meeting. Belinda Teague-Levy is present at today's meeting.

Alderman's Report – Alderman Krimm attended the recent Maryland Municipal League convention where she met with Gloria Lawlah, Secretary of the Maryland Dept of Aging. They had a discussion regarding the new MAP program which will request that seniors access their services electronically. They also discussed the possible barriers this will impose on seniors who do not have computer access. Secretary Lawlah offered to come to a CoA meeting to discuss the program. There will be an 800 number which seniors can call to access services.

Carolyn stated that the 800 number will be answered at the state level and then transferred to the local office. It is the goal that there will be phone availability 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This may not be an option locally due to funding issues. The 211 service may be an option to implement this initiative. There will be many new State programs which will be initiated in the next year. The MAP initiative will need to grow and is expected to be sustainable after 2015. The State has new upcoming proposals which are funded differently than the way local government has traditionally budgeted for programs.

Secretary Lawlah will be invited to a future meeting in the fall. It may be more beneficial if she is invited once solid data is available via the Needs Assessment.

- VI. General discussion concerning the future of senior services in Frederick County – RaeAnn Butler** – RaeAnn invited members to discuss the future needs of senior and which services may or may not be available and/or affordable. So many of the programs which support the senior population are wait listed and the needs are increasing. During a meeting on June 27th, the BoCC provided some information publically that some County funds may be available to go towards supporting senior services. With this information in mind, the suggestion is to create a solid strategic plan. There should be a review of what services are available, what services have a wait list, and are there services which are not being utilized. Is there an opportunity for community partnerships and how can volunteers be utilized to plan for future needs?

This Commission is mandated by the Federal Older Americans Act. It was suggested that the section of the Act pertaining to this Commission be reviewed to determine the Congressional intent. There was a suggestion to investigate how other counties are interpreting the Act. This will be beneficial when developing a future plan of action. Irene will investigate sections of this Act in order to clarify the role of this Commission.

There was a suggestion that members of this Commission complete a review of services that are currently available in the community. The Blue Book is divided into categories. RaeAnn will email Commission members a list of topics to be researched. Members are asked to pick a few topics and research what is available in Frederick County. Commission members should have an idea of some resource information by the end of August.

The proposed Strategic Plan should work closely with the Area Plan for the Dept of Aging as it is developed. It is a reasonable expectation that a Commission Strategic Plan will be significantly developed by November. The previous Strategic Plan ended very successfully in that all the goals were met and/or fulfilled.

State Commission on Aging Summit – Louise Lynch – The date has been changed to September 12, 2013. The State Commission is planning to invite three members of each CoA. This will allow all CoAs to review what other counties have in place.

- VII. Transportation Voucher, public hearing dates – RaeAnn Butler** – Nancy Norris was at last month's meeting to discuss the proposed Taxi Voucher program. RaeAnn wanted to reiterate the dates of the meetings scheduled for public input. The meetings will held on Wednesday, July 17th at 2:00 pm at the C Burr Artz Library, Thursday, July 18th at 2:00 pm at the Frederick Senior Center, and Friday, July 19th at 11am at Winchester Hall.

Needs Assessment update, Jane King

Jane reported that the total number of surveys that went into a computer for analysis is 1003. There have also been two focus groups with non-profits and agencies in the County. Jane has also met with the State DoA and County leadership. The next step will be to meet with all municipal planners. There will be a shorter survey specifically for the Hispanic population which has grown. Irene offered to help distribute surveys to the Latino community to get a broader collection. Two newly discovered issues are the impact of mental health issues and substance abuse. Depression and anxiety are conditions that seniors may suffer from that can go undiagnosed. There is a need for improvement in long term services so that seniors can age in place. The first draft will soon be available for the CoA Executive Committee. Belinda shared that there will be a meeting of County municipalities in August.

- VIII. Nominating Committee, Millard Haines** – Millard is not present at today's meeting, however he did share with RaeAnn that the committee is attempting to schedule interviews with two candidates.

Adult Public Disabled Review Board, Mary Rice - This Board met on June 3rd and twelve cases were reviewed. All cases were found to be receiving appropriate services.

Partners in Care, Ernell Graham – Ernell is not present at today's meeting. Carolyn had no report but the group will be meeting again next month.

USM, Ginny Skelley – This group does not meet during the summer months.

Director, Carolyn True – Carolyn distributed a list of pertinent acronyms and new programs that the State is planning to roll out. Carolyn gave a brief description of each program.

The Balancing Incentive Program (BiP) is a new Federal initiative. Maryland applied for and received \$106 million to implement this program which will assist long term services and support. A single point of entry (MAP) is one requirement of BiP which is in place. A standardized assessment tool is also required. The tool now being used in Maryland is InterRAI. The AERS program is currently using this tool to screen clients for services.

The Community First Choice is a program which will merge the Older Adult Waiver and Living at Home Waiver and will expand community based services. This will be implemented January 1, 2014. The funding will be coming from the Affordable Care Act and BiP. The hope is that these monies will begin to fill in some of the gaps in service. Providers are also being approved on the State level so that services will be available when clients are qualified for services.

Normally in July the CoA is making recommendations for the Area Plan, however direction from the Maryland Dept of Aging has not been received at this point. The fiscal 2014 allocation schedule for the state and federal grants have also not been received. The FY14 spending is being limited until an allocation schedule has been received.

A sequestration proposal was submitted in April and the Dept has not received approval yet. In the meantime, the Feageville Food & Friends was closed due to the sequestration plan and one open position has not been filled.

Some changes have been made to the congregate menu components. There could be some additional costs due to the menu change.

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Announcements, All – There will be no meeting in August. The Executive Committee will meet on August 19th at 11:00 am at the Dept of Aging.

IX. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 3:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Ramsburg
Recording Secretary

Upcoming Dates:

August 19, 2013. CoA Executive Committee meeting, 11:00 at Frederick County Dept of Aging

September 9, 2013, Commission on Aging, 1:00 at Frederick Senior Center, 1440 Taney Avenue, Frederick, MD